LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A system running in a central processing unit for changing the appearance and performance generated by a specified application, said specified application being undegraded and having a set of complete functionalities, the system comprising:

a timer for measuring time; and

means, responsive to the timer, to change, after receipt of the specified application by the central processing unit, the appearance or performance generated by the specified application according to a timed procedure to encourage a user of the application to abandon this specified application and to purchase a new version of the specified application, said means to change the appearance or performance of the specified application including means to eliminate said functionalities one at a time according to said timed procedure to provide the user with a continuous, but progressively diminishing, use of said specified application;

wherein the central processing unit is connected to a network to receive data therefrom over a bandwidth and the means to change the appearance or performance of the specified application includes means to degrade said network bandwidth.

Claims 2-9 (Cancelled).

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Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The system as in Claim 1 where changes are obtained by manipulating drives in a personal computer.

Claim 11 (Original): The system in claim 1 where users pay money or view advertisements to reduce or eliminate degradation.

Claim 12 (Original): The system in claim 11 where money is paid to any of: software manufacturer, seller, third party, or degradation service provider.

Claim 13 (Original): The system in claim 12 where the amount of degradation is related to the amount of money paid.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method of operating a trial software application, said trial application being undegraded and associated with a defined full application, and said trial application having a set of complete functionalities said method comprising the steps of:

providing the trial application with a first set of instructions, embodied in a computer readable medium, for causing a computer to generate a main program; and

providing the trial application with a second set of instructions, embodied in the computer readable medium, for causing the computer to diminish, after receipt of the trial application by the computer, the performance of the main program over time and in accordance with a timed procedure in order to encourage a user of the computer to purchase said defined full

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application, said second set of instructions including means to eliminate said functionalities one at a time according to said timed procedure to provide the user with a continuous, but progressively diminishing, use of said trail application;

wherein the computer has a central processing unit having a processing speed, and the step of providing the trial application with a second set of instructions includes the step of using said second set of instructions to diminish the performance of the main program by degrading said processing speed.

Claim 15 (Original): A method according to Claim 14, wherein said subprogram begins to diminish the performance of the main program a defined period of time after the user begins to use the trial application.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A system for operating a trial software application on a computer, said trial application having a main program and being undegraded and associated with a defined full application, and said trial application having a set of complete functionalities said system comprising:

a timer for measuring time;

means for operating the main program to produce a defined performance;

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means responsive to the timer for diminishing, after receipt of the trial application by the computer, the performance of the main program over time and in accordance with a timed procedure in order to encourage a user to purchase said defined full application, said means for diminishing the performance of the main program including means to eliminate said functionalities one at a time according to said timed procedure to provide a user of the computer with a continuous, but progressively diminishing use of said trial application;

wherein the computer is connected to a network to receive data therefrom over a bandwidth, and the means for diminishing the performance of the main program includes means to degrade said network bandwidth.

Claim 18 (Original): A system according to Claim 17, wherein said means for diminishing included means to begin to diminish the performance of the main program a defined period of time after the user begins to use the trial application.

Claim 19 (Original): A system according to Claim 18, wherein said means for diminishing includes means to diminish gradually the performance of the main program over a given time starting at the end of said defined period of time.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for encouraging a user to purchase a full version software application related to an undegraded

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trial version, said trial version having a set of complete functionalities, said method steps comprising:

providing a user computer with the trial version;

allowing the user computer to use the full capacity of the trial version for a defined period of time to produce a defined performance;

after said defined period of time, after receipt of the trial version by the user computer diminishing the performance of the trial version in accordance with a timed procedure to encourage the user to purchase said full version, wherein the diminishing step includes the step of eliminating said functionalities one at a time according to said timed procedure to provide the user with a continuous, but progressively diminishing, use of said specified application;

wherein the step of diminishing the performance of the trial version includes the further step of producing tactile stimulus.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A system according to Claim 1, wherein the central processing unit has a processing speed, and the means to change the appearance or performance of the specified application includes means to degrade said processing speed.

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Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A system according to Claim 1, wherein the means to change the appearance or performance of the specified application includes means to produce tactile stimulus.

Claim 24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A method according to Claim 14, wherein the computer is connected to a network to receive data therefrom over a bandwidth, and the step of using said second set of instructions includes the step of using said second set of instructions to degrade said network bandwidth.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A method according to Claim 14, wherein the step of using said second set of instructions includes the further step of using said second set of instructions to produce tactile stimulus.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A system according to Claim 17, wherein the computer includes a central processing unit having a processing speed, and the means for diminishing the performance of the main program includes means to degrade said processing speed.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A system according to Claim 17, wherein the means for diminishing the performance of the main program includes means to produce tactile stimulus.

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Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A program storage device according to Claim 20, wherein the computer is connected to a network to receive data therefrom over a bandwidth, and the step of diminishing the performance of the trial version includes the step of degrading said network bandwidth.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A program storage device according to Claim 20, wherein the computer includes a central processing unit having a processing speed, and the step of diminishing the performance of the trail version includes the step of degrading said processing speed.

31. (Previously Presented): A system running in a central processing unit for changing the appearance and performance generated by a specified application, said specified application being undegraded and having a set of complete functionalities, the system comprising:

a timer for measuring time; and

means responsive to the timer, to gradually diminish, after receipt of a specified application by a central processing unit, the appearance or performance generated by the specified application, including means to produce tactile stimulus and means to produce unpleasant olfactory stimulus, according to a timed procedure beginning at a defined period of time after use of the specified application, said diminished appearance or performance occurring over a period of given time, wherein a user is encouraged to abandon the specified application and to purchase a new version of the specified application, said means to gradually diminish said

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appearance or performance includes means to eliminate said functionalities one at a time according to said timed procedure to provide said user with a continuous, but progressively diminishing, use of said specified application;

and wherein the central processing unit is connected to a network to receive data therefrom over a bandwidth and the means to diminish the appearance or performance of the specified application includes means to degrade said network bandwidth;

and wherein the central processing unit has a processing speed and the means to diminish the appearance or performance of the specified application includes means to degrade said processing speed.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): A system according to Claim 17, wherein said means for diminishing the performance of the main program is loaded onto a degradation server provider, separate and remote from said computer, said degradation server provider is connected to said computer by a network, and said degradation server provider controls the diminishing of the trial application.

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